

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

----- 113862

R 202126Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0239

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTION ALTERED TO LEGALIZE THE COMMUNIST PARTY

1. ARTICLE 98 OF THE COSTA RICAN CONSTITUTION

REPEALED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON MAY 19. THE REPEAL WAS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY (47-4) IN THE THIRD DEBATE. THE BILL, WHICH HAS THE EFFECT OF LEGALIZING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HAD PASSED THREE DEBATES IN THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY SESSION, THUS FULFILLING THE LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION. PRESIDENTIAL SIGNATURE ON THE AMENDMENT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY.

2. COMMENT: THE REPEAL CAME AS NO SURPRISE AS ARTICLE 98 HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED ANACHRONISTIC. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, ARTICLE 98 ONLY PROHIBITED THE PARTIDO VANGUARDIA POPULAR (PVP), THE TRADITIONAL COSTA RICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS ON THE PREMISE THAT AS CONSTITUTED IT WAS A POLITICAL PARTY WITH "IDEOLOGICAL PROGRAMS - - - (WHICH) TEND TO DESTROY THE BASES OF DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION OF COSTA RICA." TO GET AROUND ARTICLE 98, THE PVP HAD SIMPLY CREATED A FRONT ORGANIZATION

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FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES WHICH HAS BEEN CALLED THE PARTIDO

ACCION SOCIALISTA (PASO). REFORM OF THE CONSTITUTION  
SIMPLY MEANS THE CHARADE HAS ENDED.  
TODMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SANJO02041  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750177-0669  
**From:** SAN JOSE  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750535/aaaabfqw.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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EO Systematic Review  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONSTITUTION ALTERED TO LEGALIZE THE COMMUNIST PARTY  
**TAGS:** PGOV, CS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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